AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, before line 1, insert the following heading:

TITLE OF THE INVENTION:

Page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 4, insert the following heading:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Page 2, before the paragraph beginning on line 12, insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 16 with the following:

The proposed object is met according to the present invention in that the inner geometrical cross-section shape of the mold and the corresponding dimensions ~~measurements~~ are ~~carried out~~ analogous to a curve of the locally deducible

quantity of solidification heat for a specified casting rate and analogous to the expansion of the tubular mold. The tubular mold is thereby adapted so as to optimize the process, wherein the solidification heat is dissipated according to a (high) casting rate based on the mold height (mold length) both by means of the casting contraction behavior as well as the mold expansion during casting operation.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 4 with the following:

The casting shell always advantageously abuts the inner surface (hot side) of the mold without air gaps. This makes it possible, for example, to take into account ~~of~~ the magnified heat quantity in the casting mirror area for casting contraction and mold expansion. ~~Based on these values the~~ The tubular mold is designed with regard to its inner shape ~~form~~ and dimensions based on these values ~~measurement~~. The values can be used for example for mold heights of approximately 1000-1100 mm.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 12 with the following:

The tubular mold can be designed in the same way with regard to its exterior shape ~~form~~ and dimensions ~~measurements~~, wherein ~~that~~ the exterior shape ~~form~~ is designed at least in separate height ranges to be analogous to the mold expansion.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 with the following:

A very pronounced contraction can be accomplished ~~measured~~, for example, in that the tubular mold in the area of the casting mirror exhibits a section of greater conicity in accordance with the greater contraction of the continuous casting.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1 with the following:

A conicity is used on such a contraction section which corresponds to the casting shell growth and the typical contraction (on the basis of shell growth S = Key figure k * t; whereas t = casting time). The ~~, wherein the~~ tubular mold beneath ~~exhibits under~~ the section of greater conicity exhibits a continuously varying conicity depending on the casting shell growth and the contraction of the continuous casting.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 8 with the following:

The conicity of the tubular mold and its wall thickness result from, among other things, ~~others from~~ the fact that beneath ~~under~~ the tubular mold section of greater conicity the wall volume is variably designed to correspond ~~corresponding~~ to the dissipated heat quantity per unit of time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21 with the following:

Taking into account the decreasing contraction according to the respective casting shell thickness, it is further provided that the approximately parabola-shaped recess declines in the direction toward the casting exit side. This ~~is~~ makes it possible to carry out an individua!ized adjustment to the respective broadside and/or narrowside ~~edge~~ of the entry cross-section.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 3 with the following:

~~Based on exemplified calculations it~~ It is further advantageous to have ~~that~~ the length of the approximately parabola-shaped recess roughly extend ~~extends~~ into half the mold height.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 6 with the following:

The contraction behavior of the continuous casting can be further taken into consideration by adapting the length of the approximately parabola-shaped recess to the contraction measure at the height of the respective broadside and/or narrowside ~~edge~~ of the mold cross-section.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 11 with the following:

~~A further development is achieved in that~~ In a further embodiment a plane-parallel surface ~~each~~ is provided ~~designed~~ in the area of each [[a]] corner radius which opposes analogous counter surfaces in the inner cross-section form.

Page 5, before the paragraph beginning on line 15, insert the following heading:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING:

Page 6, before the paragraph beginning on line 7, insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 1 with the following:

The tubular mold 2 is ~~henceforth~~ built such that the inner geometrical cross-section shape ~~form~~ 9 and the associated dimensions ~~measurements~~ 10 are set analogous to the locally deducible quantity of solidification heat (see Fig. 1, right diagram "D") for a specified (high) casting rate and analogous to the expansion of the tubular-mold 2, i.e., designed based on calculations and/or experience.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 15 with the following:

According to Fig. 1 to 4 the tubular mold 2 exhibits in the area of the casting surface ~~mirror~~ 13 (Fig. 2) a conical section 14 ~~of great conicity~~ and immediately adjacent a section 15 of even greater conicity corresponding to the greatest contraction of the continuous casting 1.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 20 with the following:

A continuously varying conicity 16 extends beneath ~~under~~ the section 15 of greater conicity corresponding to the casting shell growth and the contraction of the continuous casting 1. The wall volume 17 is thereby variable or reduced depending on the dissipated heat quantity per time unit. In the areas of reduced wall volume 17 the exterior surface 18 of the tubular mold 2 is enlarged by means of notches, ribs 19 or the like (Figs. 4A and 4B). These notches or ribs 19 are surrounded on the outside by a cooling medium (water) and are located in a common water case (not shown) which surrounds the continuous casting mold. The notches, ribs 19 or the like can also be seen in Figs. 3 and 3B.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 10 with the following:

In Figs. 4 and 4A a centric, approximately parabola-shaped, recess 20 is arranged on each cross-section side 3a of the mold starting an ~~on~~ the entry cross-section 3. The parabola-shaped recess 20 diminishes in depth and thus in width downwards in the direction toward the casting exit side 7.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 15 with the following:

The length 20a of the parabola-shaped recess 20 thereby extends approximately into half the height of the mold 11. The length 20a of the parabola-shaped recess 20 is also adapted to contraction amount ~~measure~~ for the height of the respective broadside and/ narrowside ~~edge~~ 21 of the mold cross-section 22 (Fig. 4A).

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 21 with the following:

In the area of each ~~the~~ corner radius 8 there is ~~each~~ one plane-parallel surface 23 extending downwards, each opposing a

respective analogous counter surface ~~surfaces~~ 24 in the inner cros innercross-section shape ~~form~~ 9.